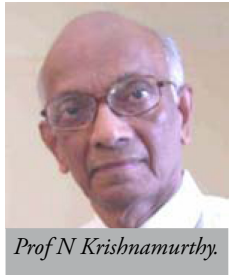


The 5 A-Way



Professor N Krishnamurthy distils his more than five decades of worldwide experience in the engineering profession, into

five, well-known words - ATTITUDE, AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE, ANALYSIS and ACTION. They are presented here in a fresh, conceptual format, in the hope that they may be words of value if not wisdom.

Prof Krishnamurthy claims no originality in the words or concepts that define the '5A-Way', and admits to 'standing on the shoulders' of giants like Confucius, Socrates and Gandhi, for obtaining a larger vision. Only the name and packaging are his.

The five A-words, as well as their order, are critical to the 5A-Way, as explained in Table 1.

The 5A-Way can be applied to any activity or decision. Over a period of many years, starting with the basic, two-step, 'thought and action' logic, Prof Krishnamurthy further developed the '5A-Way' for his personal and professional use.

Application to Workplace Safety

Recently, he has applied the 5A-Way to workplace safety in Singapore, creating a scenario with the five components contributing in the following manner:

Attitude (A-1)

We can assure ourselves, and proudly tell others, 'I accept workplace safety as a core value!'

- We shall ensure that none of our workers gets injured or killed at the workplace, while doing the work.
- We will share with our cohorts, all information and knowledge about accidents and incidents.

Awareness (A-2)

We must save employees from injury or death, save our property from damage, and save our environment and reputation from harm.

- We must learn what can cause harm

and to whom, with what type and extent of consequences.

- We must see, hear and sense all potential dangers, to identify them, so that we can avoid or control them.

Acceptance (A-3)

We will make risk management our vision and our mission, and declare their content and our intent to all concerned.

- We will be accountable for the welfare and safety of all the stakeholders, as well as to the general public.
- We will treat all the stakeholders as partners, and commit ourselves to actions and their consequences.

Analysis (A-4)

We shall plan to manage all the risks, by elimination or mitigation with suitable safeguards.

- We shall identify the hazards, estimating the likelihood and severity of accidents, and their combined risk level.
- We will decide which risks are acceptable, and which are unacceptable, and also controls for the tolerable risks.

Action (A-5)

We shall get on with the business of safety, and the safety of our business, demonstrating that safety first means that safety lasts.

- We will get all the stakeholders to understand, accept, and participate in the risk assessment and management process.
- We shall document all information relevant to risk assessment, implement all our decisions, and communicate with all concerned.

Prof N Krishnamurthy

Prof Krishnamurthy is currently a Singapore-based Consultant in Safety, Structures and Computer Applications.

He is an Accredited Trainer, certified by the Singapore Ministry of Manpower to teach specific modules within courses relating to the safety of temporary structures, conducted by IES Academy under the Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), and by SCAL Academy under the Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL).

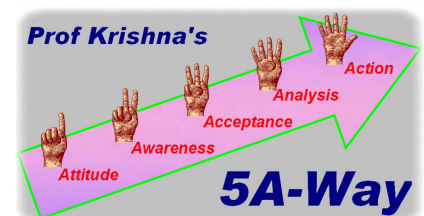
Prof Krishnamurthy is also a Risk Consultant approved by the Ministry of Manpower.

He has five decades of teaching, research, and consultancy experience, acquired from the US, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. Prof Krishnamurthy has also taught short courses for practising engineers.

In the US, he was a Professor in Civil Engineering at three universities, and served as Department Chairman during his last appointment. Prof Krishnamurthy has also held senior positions at the National University of Singapore, and Mysore University in India.

His research interests have been in Structural Engineering and Computer Applications in Civil Engineering. He has written over 75 refereed papers and three books including 'Introduction to Risk Management', and has co-authored two other books and a few compilations. Prof Krishnamurthy was Chief Editor of 'Guidebook on Scaffold Regulations' published by SCAL.

(More information on Prof Krishnamurthy and his work, can be obtained from his website: www.profkrishtna.com)



A-1	ATTITUDE	The beginning, base and basis for all we want to do. → Believe in the chosen goal.
A-2	AWARENESS	Learning all ramifications and implications of the task. → Know what has to be done.
A-3	ACCEPTANCE	Shouldering responsibility for all the consequences. → Take responsibility for it.
A-4	ANALYSIS	Developing right procedures, selecting right tools. → Plan what to do and how.
A-5	ACTION	Putting our money and our effort where our mouth is. → Just go ahead and do it.